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MONTHLY JOURNAL

A101 E S 1010

OF THE

Coventry

Chamber of Commerce.

November, 1915.



SOME OF OUR PATRONS:-

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H.I.M. The Empress Dowager of Russia. H.M. The King of Spain. H.I.M. Emperor of Japan. H.M. The Ameer of Afghanistan. H.M. The King of Portugal.

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Prospectus of the Chamber.

The Council of the Chamber meets on the first Tuesday in the month at 5 p.m., at the Mayoress' Parlour, St. Mary's Hall.

Commercial Publications, Books of Reference, Board of Trade and Consular Reports, Blue Books, etc., are at the service of the members, and may be seen at the Secretary's Office.

The Secretary will be pleased to answer Railway, Postal, Fiscal, and other enquiries on commercial matters, or will obtain special information from Government Departments, Consuls abroad, etc.

The commercial interests and prosperity of Coventry and discrict are the

Chamber's chief concern.

MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF THE

COVENTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Vol. 9.

NOVEMBER, 1915

No. 10.

Opinions expressed in this Magazine do not necessarily represent the official views of the Chamber.

All documents of the nature of a communication from the Government to the Chamber or private Reports of Committees are privileged, and must not be copied without permission from the Editor.

Minutes of Council.

The Council met on November 2nd. Present: Messrs. E. Kalker (in the chair), A. L. Auerhaan, H. S. Batt, F. A. Bullock, E. V. Dodd, O. M. Flinn, W. Johnson, M. Lorrimer, T. Sherwin, C. H. White, and the Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from the President, Messrs. Pridmore, Price, French, and Bill.

A letter was read from Vice-Admiral Bacon, thanking the Council for their resolution of congratulation, passed at the last meeting.

GENERAL PURPOSES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of Meetings, October 20th and November 1st, read and passed.

MERCHANDISE MARKS AND TARIFFS COMMITTEE.

Minutes of Meeting, October 18, read and passed. On the subject of the Russian new tariff, Mr. Auerhaan expressed the view that the matter of modification could not be usefully pursued till the return of peace.

RAILWAY AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.

Minutes of Meeting, October 26th, read, and also communications from the railway company on the subject of return of empties.

Minutes passed.

FINANCE BILL AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Dodd gave an account of the proceedings at the meeting called by the Associated Chambers to consider amendments to the Finance Bill. The discussion related principally to methods of assessing war profits, depreciation of plants, assessment of Co-operative Societies to income tax (their excess profits will be taxed), the position of professional men's incomes, and the employment of capital in businesses. A deputation went to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and (said Mr. Dodd) the Bill, as printed, showed marks of it.

The thanks of the Council for his attendance and report were expressed.

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POST-WAR GERMAN GOODS.

A communication was received from the Associated Chambers, enclosing letter received by them from Mr. A. M. Samuel, member of the Norwich Chamber, on the subject of a threatened flooding of British markets with cheap German goods after the war, and urging the Government to take steps well in advance to avert the danger. It was decided to support the resolution.

GOODS FOR NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

A second communication from the Associated Chambers had reference to the difficulty of getting goods to neutral countries, and it was decided to support action with a view to improvement.

ANHLINE DYES.

It was decided to also support a proposal for the Government to further assist the production of aniline dyes in this country.

ACCOUNTS.

The Accounts, as passed by the General Purposes and Finance Committee, together with 10 guineas towards the local Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund voted earlier in the meeting, were ordered to be paid.

ANNUAL MEETING.

It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting of the Chamber on Wednesday, December 15th at 8 p.m.

Returned Empties by Railway.

The demands upon railways for the conveyance of Government stores, and munitions, and foodstuffs, have been very great, but it is very probable that these demands will increase in intensity.

It is very desirable, therefore, that a method or methods might be discovered which will minimise this returned empty problem. The following method has just come under notice, and is now actually operating in certain directions. It can be fully explained thus:—

Goods in returnable boxes, cases, etc., are regularly passing between big centres—Birmingham is sending such packages to Mancester; Manchester is sending such packages to Birmingham. Under the present system, when the packages are emptied, the empty boxes, cases, etc., have to be returned from Manchester to Birmingham in the one instance, and from Birmingham to Manchester in the other. In order to get over the difficulty through the railways not being able to freely convey returned empty packages, when the empties at Manchester are ready they are there handed over to a firm sending goods to Birmingham, are filled with such goods, and reach Birmingham without difficulty. On arrival they are emptied and at once transferred to the original senders.

As already stated, firms in Birmingham, London, Manchester, Coventry, and other places, have already adopted this method, and are helping their businesses materially. The idea is a novel one, but it is undoubtedly open to considerable development, and traders who have tried it are well satisfied, as it has enabled them to avoid inconvenience and difficulty brought about because the railways have considerably reduced staffs owing to the large number of their men who have enlisted, etc., and have to meet extraordinary demands in the conveyance of Government stores and munitions.

Business and the War.

The spirit we bring to bear on the position in which we find ourselves at this juncture will have a big influence on the course of international events in the near future. It is useless to lament that we—or those who are acting authoritatively for us-have not made more satisfactory progress towards a successful ending of the war. We are going to face the situation as if the task were just beginning, with fresh determination to see the thing through. Business on normal lines is out of the question under present conditions, and the sooner, therefore, we can clear up the terrible tangle we and practically all other European nations are involved in, the sooner we can get back to our ordinary avocations and start the reconstruction that will be necessary. Taking into account the fact that we were unprepared, except as regards our Navy, for such a tremendous war, the achievements of having kept the German and Austrian offensive at bay is a great one. The credit for the military operations is, of course, largely due to our allies, France and Russia. This has enabled our authorities, under the direction of Lord Kitchener and others, to make preparations, and it must be remembered that from the outset he warned the country to look forward to a three years' conflict. The events of the past year have shown that any kind of peace, apart from a peace brought about by the victory of the allied nations, is unthinkable. must be made a safe place to live in, and the world must be allowed to get on with its affairs without another calamity of the kind from which it is now suffering. Let us keep a stiff upper lip and get on with the grim business. -Machinery Market.

Monthly Proceedings of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom.

A Meeting of the Executive Council was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Tuesday, the 9th November, Sir Algernon F. Firth, Bt. (President), in the chair.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

On the motion of Mr. Arthur M. Samuel, who said he moved it in the interests of the working classes of the country, seconded by Mr. G. Palliser Martin, the following resolution was unanimously adopted and will be transmitted to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Trade:—

- "Inasmuch as large numbers of our soldiers will return to industrial employment after the war, it is necessary to look ahead in order that nothing may be allowed to occur likely to lessen their opportunity of obtaining employment and a livelihood.
- "It is thought that Germany may pour into this country large quantities of manufactured goods, at low prices, in competition with the products of our working people, depriving our people of a market and thereby reducing employment.
- "This Council beg to warn His Majesty's Government of such a possibility, and consider that the Government should be prepared well in advance with a considered and matured plan, to prevent unemployment caused by the action of German manufacturers, and to secure continuity of business for those who have undertaken enterprises with the hope of obtaining a portion of the trade formerly done in competition with British

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subjects by those countries with whom we are at present at war. This Council strongly impress upon His Majesty's Government the necessity of deciding its policy in connection with this question before the time shall have arrived when the feared mischief may have begun, shortly after the conclusion of Peace and the re-opening of the markets of the world."

In connection with the above resolution the special attention of the Chambers is drawn to the following information supplied by the Sheffield Chamber regarding the work done, and action taken, by the German War Committee of German Industry. The document shows that the possibility feared by the Executive Council will actually arise.

WAR COMMITTEE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Roetger, Deputy Lieutenant ex-officio, there was held on September 20th a meeting (at which an extraordinary number of persons were present) of the Central Union of German Merchants and of the Federation of Merchants for the discussion of the tasks confronting the Foreign Trade Department formed by the War Committee of German Trade.

Professor Dr. Bernhard Harms, of Kiel, of the Society for the Promotion of the Institute for Maritime Traffic and World Commerce, gave a very attractive lecture on the necessity for a careful cultivation of German trade after the war, and at the same time pointed out that even during the war the necessary steps therefore must be taken.

One thing necessary for this purpose was a systematic investigation of the World's commercial conditions. Both practice and science must render their services in this matter. Modern commercial science excludes all political aims. Analysis and casual investigations are its functions. For this reason it requires the most intimate relationship with practice.

The speaker recommended in the warmest possible manner the development of the Institute for Maritime Traffic and World's Commerce, and his statements were vigorously applauded.

An animated discussion followed in which amongst others Dr. Johannes Merz, Director Meesmann, General Director Muller, Dr. Markiwiez, Privy Councillor Busley, Deputy Dr. Benmer, Dr. Heimann, Director Hosemann, Privy Councillor Ziese and Professor Dr. Harms, took part. At the conclusion the following resolution was adopted:—

The Committees of the Federation of Merchants and of the Central Union of German Merchants note with satisfaction the comprehensive and successful labours which the Foreign Trade Department of the War Committee of German Trade have accomplished since the commencement of the war and the results thereof, which have been printed in the Transactions of the War Committee and regularly published so far as they can promote further expansion.

The Committees of the two Associations are of opinion that the numerous attempts made by enemy foreign countries to systematically strangle and exclude German commercial competition after the war will require an intelligently organised expansion of German exports as well as of German world's commercial interests altogether, in order to remove the injuries brought about by the war. They approved and welcomed the preparatory steps which have been undertaken and set on foot by the Foreign Trade Department of the War Committee of the German Industry for the furtherance of German commerce in the domain of foreign trade.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The meeting considered the further developments of the Foreign Trade Department in this direction to be urgent, and stated their intention of entering into communication with other commercial Associations and Institutes which are adapted and willing to co-operate in the problems arising in this domain, so as in this way to do justice to the widely ramified interests of the Fatherland in foreign trade. These attempts at furtherance of exports can, however, only be successfully carried out when the greatest possible State support is accorded them both by the home Imperial authorities as well as by the representatives of the Empire abroad. Further treatment of these questions would be gone into by the Board of the War Committee of German Industry without delay, and if necessary by means of Commissions to be specially formed.

WAR TRADE DEPARTMENT.

The Council had under consideration the views of Chambers on the administration of the War Trade Department, and on the motion of Mr. Beardshaw (Sheffield), seconded by Mr. Renwick (Newcastle), the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

- "The Executive Council of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom are of the opinion that the maintenance and, where possible, the increase of the Export Trade of this country is vital to the interests of the nation, especially at this juncture, in connection with the position of the foreign exchanges, and they therefore consider that His Majesty's Government should afford all reasonable facilities and every possible encouragement for the maintenance and increase of this trade.
- "Whilst recognising the necessity of prohibiting the export of certain classes of goods, and without questioning the policy, the Council are of opinion that the administration of the policy by the War Trade Department is unduly hindering the Export Trade.
- "The delays in the issue of licences and the difference in the treatment of applications are the most frequent causes of complaint, and this Council, whilst recognising with pleasure the offer of the Secretary of the War Trade Department to institute a special method of investigating all such complaints, requests Lord Emmott to receive a deputation."

A deputation consisting of Sir Algernon Firth, Bt. (President), Rt. Hon. Lord Southwark (Vice-President), Mr. E. Parkes, M.P. (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Hobson (Sheffield), Mr. Musgrave (Secretary, London), Mr. Herbert Shaw (Secretary, Newcastle), and the Secretary of the Association, was received by the Rt. Hon. Lord Emmott, G.C.M.G., on the morning of the 11th inst. The views of the Chambers were placed before Lord Emmott and the Secretary of the Department by Sir Algernon Firth, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Musgrave. Lord Emmott assured the deputation that he fully fully alive to the necessities of our Export Trade, but his department was often blamed when he was not responsible. He promised that all cases brought to his notice would be carefully looked into, and he would do all in his power to meet the wishes of the Association.

MUNITION FACTORIES: DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES.

The following replies have been received to the Council's letters of the 5th October (see Oct. Prog. pp. 112-13) asking for information as to the system of assessing the rate of depreciation on plant, buildings, etc., which have been installed for the making of munitions:—

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Ministry of Munitions of War, 6, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

Sir,

12th October, 1915.

I am directed by the Minister of Munitions to refer to your letter of the 5th October requesting information as to the method which will be followed in assessing depreciation on plant, buildings, etc., in certain cases.

I am to state that in both the cases mentioned, the matter, so far as it may arise in connection with the provisions of the Munitions of War Act in respect of the limitation of profits, would appear to be one for special consideration in each case, with a view to the particular circumstances of the case.

I am to enclose for your information a copy of the Munitions (Limitation of Profits) Rules 1915.

R. B. Dunwoody, Esq.

(Signed) OWEN H. SMITH.

The following letter has been received from the Inland Revenue:—

Inland Revenue, Somerset House, W.C.

Sir,

5th November.

I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 5th ultimo on the subject of the rate of depreciation of new plant and buildings installed for the purpose of making munitions to be allowed in arriving at the balance of profits and gains for Income Tax purposes.

With reference thereto I am to state that allowance can only be made at the present time for the diminished value by reason of wear and tear of the plant of manufacturers of munitions in accordance with the general provisions of Section 12 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1878.

The question of any allowance for plant which may become wholly or partly useless after the war can only be considered when the circumstances actually arise.

I am, etc.,

P. WILLIAMSON,

The Secretary,

Asst. Secretary.

Association of Chambers of Commerce.

The Council decided that as there is considerable anxiety on the part of firms on this question, it is desirable that a definite policy should be laid down.

RESERVED OCCUPATIONS COMMITTEE.

The special attention of the Chambers is drawn to the following important Board of Trade announcement (Nov. 10th, 1915):—

Occupations from which Enlistment should be Restricted.

An inter-departmental Advisory Committee is engaged in preparing lists of reserved occupations, *i.e.*, occupations from which enlistments should be restricted, in view of the necessity of maintaining the trade of the country as far as possible.

Representations from employers with reference to indispensable and irreplaceable classes of labour should be addressed to: The Secretary, Reserved Occupations Committee, Board of Trade, Gwydyr House, Whitehall, S.W.

The Secretary finds that this Committee is receiving representations from trades and trade associations only.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

RECRUITING FROM UNCONTROLLED ESTABLISHMENTS.

The attention of the Chambers is drawn to the following announcement of November 18th, 1915:—

Lord Derby has received many letters too numerous to answer personally from employers who are placed in difficulties owing to the desire of their employees to enlist. Lord Derby recognises with gratitude the evident desire of the majority of employers to assist him to find the necessary number of recruits. He is unable to give individual advice in each case, but as a general recommendation he would urge employers to let those of their men who wish to do so enlist under the group system and be placed in Army Reserve B. This will in the first place give time before the group is called up to arrange, if possible, to find a temporary substitute. But if a substitute cannot be found, and the man is considered essential to any business of national importance, or indeed to any business conducted for the general good of the community, the local tribunal will have power to recommend his relegation to a later group. Under the group system the man after enlistment is at liberty at once to return to his civil employment. He will receive an armlet to show he has enlisted.

Men who enlist on the group system are giving just as good service to the State as if they enlisted and joined the colours immediately.

Nobody recognises more thoroughly than Lord Derby, not only the absolute necessity for keeping going the industries essential to the maintenance of the war, but also the great desirability of keeping up our export trades. He will do all he can to assist traders generally, but, on the other hand, traders must recognise the importance of letting as many of their men enlist as possible, and must therefore do all in their power to secure their work being done by women or by men disqualified by age or medical unfitness for service.

NOTE BY SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary of the Association is informed that employers in uncontrolled establishments should place a notice in their works informing the men that the work which the firm is doing is essential work for the British Government, or in the country's interests, and that before they enlist, or at the time of enlistment, they should inform the recruiting officer that they are employed by a firm whose work is necessary for the carrying on of the war, and that their services are essential. The men enlisted will then be placed in Group B., and, when they are called up, the objections of the employers to their recruitment will be considered by the local tribunals. This arrangement, of course, only applies to men who are willing to remain with the employers after enlistment, until called up.

Any man in an uncontrolled establishment who wishes to enlist cannot be compelled to return to the works against his will.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAMME OF RESOLUTIONS.

The Council decided to hold the next Annual Meeting of the Association at the Hotel Metropole on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 14th, 15th and 16th March, 1916.

A Preliminary Programme of resolutions for this meeting will be issued after the 11th January, 1916, and resolutions for this programme must be received by the Secretary by the morning of Friday, 7th January. A final programme will be issued immediately after the Council meeting on Tuesday, 8th February, and resolutions for the final programme must be sent in by the morning of Friday, 4th February.

The attention of Secretaries of Chambers is specially drawn to these

arrangements.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MANUFACTURERS.

(The charge for insertion in this List is 5|- per annum for three lines, and is confined to Members of the Chamber only).

Trade.	Name and	Address.	Teleg. Address.	Tel. No.
Motor and Cycle Chain Manufacturers, and Machine Driving Chains of all descriptions	THE COVENTRY (Spon End, Cov		Chains, Covenly	830
Gear Cases, Saddles, Tool-bags, Mudguards, Mud-splashers	COVENTRY GEAR White Frians	CASE Co., LTD., Street, Coventry	Proof, Covenly	785
Gear Cases, Chain Covers, Exonite Handles, Inflators and Mudguards, Steering Wheels	DOVER, LTD, St. Coventry, and Birmingham a	at Northampton,	Patents, Northampton	309 Coventry 200 North- ampton
Motor Manufacturers and Engineers	Maudslay Mo Parkside, Cove		Mandslay, Coventry	110 Coventry
Lubricators, Brass Taps, Grease Cups, and Machinery and Motor Accessories	Rotherham & Manufacturers Coventry	Sons, Watch and Engineers,	Rotherhams, Coventry	14
Cycles, Motor Bicycles, and Patent Detachable Wire Wheels for Motors	Rudge-Whitwo Coventry and		Rndge, Coventry	404 Coventry 773 Birming- ham
Cycles and Motors	SWIFT CYCLE Co		Swift, Coventry	113
Cycle and Motor Cycle Manufacturers	TRIUMPH Cyci Coventry	е Со., Іль.	Triumph, Covenlry	542
Insulated Wires and Cables	E. KALKER & C	co., Coventry	Kalker, Coventry	24 X
TEXTILE.				
Elastic Web Manufacturers Trade Mark, "Spider Web"	T. B. BETHELL Mills, Foleshil		Bethell, Great- heath, Coventry	256
Silk Merchants	BILL, DRESSER Street, Covent		Bill, Coventry	139
Elastic Web and Boot Looping Manufacturers	BATES AND Street, Covent	DALTON, South	Bates Datton, Coventry	118

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MANUFACTURERS—continued.

Trade.	Name and Address.	Teleg. Address.	Tel. No.
TEXTILE—continued.			
Smallware and Elastic Web Manufacturers	Dubock, Jones & Co., Coventry	Dubock, Coventry	307
Children's Millinery, Frocks, Pinafores, etc., also Ladies' Overalls	VICTOR DODD & COMPANY, Earl Street, Coventry	Dodd, Coventry	1012
Woven Hat and Cap Ribbons, with ships' names, flags, and devices Badges and woven Garment Labels of every description. Dress Bands, Initials and Numerals for marking linen. Silk woven Pictures and Post Cards.	W. H. GRANT & Co., Foleshill, Coventry, and I, Gresham St., London, E. C.	Grants, Foleshill, Coventry	3x Coventry
Fine Worsted Coatings, Plains, Trouserings, etc. Dress Goods: — "Admiralty" and other noted makes of all wool Serges, Mohairs, Alpacas, etc. Taffeta and other all wool Shirtings. "Orlwoola" and fancy blouse flannels.	LEIGH MILLS CO. LTD, Coventry, and at Bradford and Stanning-ley, Leeds	Leemills, Coventry	7 and 725 Coventry 3067 and 3068 Bradford 70 Stanny.
Hosiery Mannfacturers	Pool, Lorrimer & Tabberer, Lockhurst Lane, Coventry, and at Leicester	Woollens, Leicester	180 Coventry 4334, 4335, & 4336 Leicester
Ribbons, Neckties, Hatbands, Brace Webs, Regalia, and Medal Ribbons	HENRY SPENCER & Co., Coventry	Or ie ntal, Coventry	157
Woven Named Ribbons of every description for hats and caps; Woven Lables for shirts, coats, and other garments; and all kinds of Woven Figured Goods.	THOMAS STEVENS, LTD., Coventry, and 32, Newgate Street, London, E.C.	Graphic, Coveulry .	488
Purified Rags for polishing purposes with Certificate of Dr. Bostock Hill, County Analyst, as to their purifica- tion. Also all classes of Engine Cleaning Wastes in stock.	ARTHUR DAVIES & SONS, LTD., Palmer Lane, Coventry	Davies, Rag Merchants, Coventry.	.98
(RON, STEEL, BRASS, etc.		:	
Iron, Gun Metal and Aluminium Founders and Merchants, and General Engineers	MATTERSON, HUXLEY & WATSON, LD., Lion Foundry, Coventry	Mallerson, Covenly	408
File and Rasp Manufacturers	L. BROOKES & Co., South Street, Coventry (Principal, W. E. Dalton		
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.			
Magneto Manufacturers	THE M-L MAGNETO SYNDICATE LTD. (Morris & Lister Ltd.) Carlton Works Coventry	Carlton, Coventry	1217 Coventry

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MANUFACTURERS—continued.

Trade.	Name and Address.		Teleg. Address.	Tel. No.
MISCELLANEOUS. Timber Merchants	W. L. CARTWRI Canal Wharf,		Timber, Covenly	912
Complete Furnishers and Carpet Factors	John Anslow, Coventry	LTD., High St.,		25
Manufacturers and Importers	Cooke's Tobac Cigarette Co		Tobacco	704
Picture Frame Manufacturer, Hardware & Glass Merchant	T. E. FRISWELL Coventry	., 64, Raglan St.,		791
Wine and Spirit Merchants	Johnson & M Buildings, Co		- 1	29
Auctioneers, Valuers, Estate and Insurance Agents, Stock and Share Brokers	GEO. LOVEITT & Street, Covent	Sons, Hertford	Presto, Coventry	130
General, Furnishing and Agricultural Ironmongers, Silversmiths, etc.	MATTERSON, HU., LTD., Coventry		Matterson, Coventry	408
Printers, Stationers and Advertising Contractors	MILLS & Co., 32 Coventry	4, Earl Street,	Mills, Covenly	86
Coal Merchants, Furniture Removers and Warehousers	Jno. Morton & ford Street, Co		Morton's, Ltd., Coventry	213
Coal Merchants, Furniture Removers, Canal Carriers and Wharfingers	S. PETERS & So Coventry	on, Ford Street,		548
Manufacturers' Agent for Motor Cars and Parts, Motor Cycles and Cycles	C. D. Pole, Mas Coventry	sonic Buildings,	Pole, Masonic Buildings, Coventry	703
Slating and Tiling Contractors	W. J. & R. Wo		States, Coveutry	650
Piano, Pianola-Piano, and Gramophone Merchants	A. & F. E. Hans St., Coventry, Nuneaton	on, 20, Hertford and Bondgate,	Hauson's, Coventry.	347 Coventry 165 Nuneaton
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MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF THE

Coventry

Chamber of Commerce.

December, 1915.



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H.M. The King of Spain.

H.I.M. Emperor of Japan.

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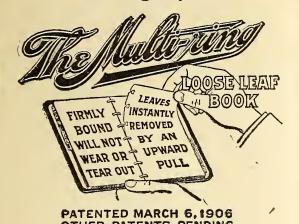
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Retire 1916.

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Retire? 1917.

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Prospectus of the Chamber.

The Council of the Chamber meets on the first Tuesday in the month at 5 p.m., at the Mayoress' Parlour, St. Mary's Hall.

Commercial Publications, Books of Reference, Board of Trade and Consular Reports, Blue Books, etc., are at the service of the members, and may be seen at the Secretary's Office.

The Secretary will be pleased to answer Railway, Postal, Fiscal, and other enquiries on commercial matters, or will obtain special information from Government Departments, Consuls abroad, etc.

The commercial interests and prosperity of Coventry and discrict are the

Chamber's chief concern.

Monthly Journal

OF THE

COVENTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

VOL. 9.

DECEMBER, 1915.

No. 11.

Opinions expressed in this Magazine do not necessarily represent the official views of the Chamber.

All documents of the nature of a communication from the Government to the Chamber or private Reports of Committees are privileged, and must not be copied without permission from the Editor.

Minutes of Council.

The Council met on December 7th. Present: Messrs. W. J. Wormell (in the chair), A. L. Auerhaan, C. J. Band, H. W. Barford, H. S. Batt, A. L. Bill, E. J. Corbett, E. V. Dodd, C. E. Dolphin, A. E. Dover, R. L. Hamilton, E. W. Hayward, M. Lorrimer, T. Sherwin, E. Walford, C. H. White, and the Secretary.

GENERAL PURPOSES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of Meeting, December 6th, read, together with Minutes of subsequent meetings held in relation to the Munitions Ministry communications re accommodating new workers in the city.

The minutes were passed.

RETAIL SECTION.

Minutes of Meeting, December 6th, read and passed, and Mr. Batt stated that it was hoped to secure two days' closing at Christmas, as in recent years.

RAILWAY AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.

Minutes of Meeting, November 23rd, read and passed.

EXCESS PROFITS AND INCOME TAX.

The Secretary reported on correspondence from the Birmingham Chamber with reference to this matter, and that the General Purposes and Finance Committee requested him on the 6th inst. to wire to Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., and ask the hon. member to watch Clause 36 of Finance Bill No. 3, and to strive for reform. This the Secretary did. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had, he said, refused to receive a deputation on the subject.

WOMEN AND CLERICAL WORK.

The Associated Chambers communicated the terms of a Home Office circular on the desirability of training women for clerical work to take the place of enlisted men.

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Mr. Dolphin stated that there was locally no dearth of women for this class of work, while he and Mr. Lorrimer and Mr. Dodd complained of the "impossible" wages competition going on in Coventry by reason of munition manufacturers offering girls much larger sums of money than textile workers could be given. Mr. Barford stated that the building trade was suffering in like manner.

Mr. White said munitioners had been discouraged to take girls employed in textile work.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Dolphin and Spencer were appointed the Chamber's representatives for 1916.

GERMAN POST-WAR TRADE.

It was decided to support a proposal for a special meeting of the Associated Chambers in January to discuss this question.

HOUSING OF NEW WORKERS.

In reference to this matter, already reported on by the General Purposes and Finance Committee, Mr. Band mentioned that he had seen Mr. R. V. Vernon (in London), and he (Mr. Band) took the view that the necessary work of finding accommodation would have to be done by manufacturers employing. The question of some further permanent accommodation than was already in hand was also discussed.

The action of the Committee was confirmed.

ACCOUNTS.

The accounts, as passed by the General Purposes and Finance Committee, were directed to be paid.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY.

Votes of sympathy with Mr. Alick Hill in his serious illness and with Vice-Admiral Bacon on the death of his son, Lieut. Bacon, were passed.

PROPOSED SILK TAX.

Mr. Bill reported that the recent vote of this Chamber for a tax on imported silk had received attention of a Lyons silk journal, and had been put down for discussion by some of the Chambers in the North of England.

Trade after the War.

According to the usually well-informed London correspondent of the "Birmingham Daily Post," a movement is on foot in Parliament to elicit from the Government a statement as to its intentions on international trading after the war. The idea is to secure from the Cabinet a declaration that the commercial policies of our Empire and the Allies will be directed against the Central Powers on a definite plan. Motions to this effect will be placed on the House of Commons order-paper, and it is said the Government are prepared to give facilities for discussion. The old barrier between Free Traders and Tariff Reformers, it is stated, has been obliterated by the war, and the only question at stake in this matter is claimed to be how best to establish a commercial system which will deal a heavy blow at German trade. The step suggested is asserted by its authors to amount to the mobilisation against the enemy of our economic strength as well as that of our allies, and in this

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

the Government, it is felt by the promoters of the movement, should take a lead. Speaking the other day at the Walsall Chamber of Commerce, the president, Mr. C. F. Hurst, suggested that if the Government had not the time to attend to this matter a committee of business men should be formed to do so, and that there should be two tariffs, one for our friends and one for our enemies. It was noteworthy, he alleged, that many people who were once Free Traders were now strongly in favour of tariffs, directed principally, we presume, against Germany. It is an open secret that Germany is at the present time preparing to flood the markets with her accumulated stocks of goods the moment the war is over. It is the German plan—the plan that failed in the attempt to get to Paris by sheer weight of numbers in the autumn of last year—and though some of us may dislike tariffs as much as we dislike war, if they are the only means discoverable, after full discussion of the question, of preventing German trade aggression, by all means let us have them—so long as they discriminate between friendly and unfriendly nations. —The Machinery Market.

A Rumour Contradicted.

The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., of Rugby, in reply to the allegation that it is a subsidiary of, or is controlled by, the Allgemeine Elektricitats Geselleschaft of Berlin, states that the suggestion is false, and that an action for libel has been commenced against those responsible for spreading the rumour. It is added that the Allgemeine Eliektricitats Gesellschaft does not, and never did, own or control a single share in the British Thomson-Houston Co., and has no influence whatever, directly or indirectly, on its affairs.

—The Machinery Market.

Mr. Henry Ford's "Tin Can" Speech.

There is now a general determination amongst the daily newspapers to refuse Ford Motor Co. advertisements, and we hope that motor car papers will do the same. Mr. Ford has only intensified his offence by his attempts to bestow patronage in a form which amounts to payment. The Press is expected to excuse or condone his vulgar insult to the representatives of France and Britain in consideration of extra advertising patronage—that is only offering an insult to the Press in addition to his insult to our country and Mr. Ford has been loudly advertised for a gift of some £2,000 to the Canadian Red Cross and an investment of £200,000 in the Canadian His investment is safe at good interest. Considering the millions he has made out of the war, his gift is nothing to brag about—it might be safely put down as a cheap advertisement considering the free paragraphs he has got for it, were it not that nowadays the more he is known the more he will be disliked. Mr. Ford's latest idea is to "give his fortune" (he is always advertising his own generosity) to promote a peace conference. Germany should be willing to repay that investment with 100 p.c. interest. It may be that Mr. Ford is merely the ridiculous pacifist the Press takes him for; but there are two facts against this theory. First, his malice against this country was so strong, and apparently sincere, that it overrode all considerations of financial interest, and it was not balanced by any similar outburst against the Germans who are plotting revolution in America. Secondly, his peace campaign is launched at the moment when it suits German interests. He is acting as an enemy of this country and acting in a way that could not be better designed and timed if he were under German instructions. Any neutral country that allows an agitation for peace at this stage of the war can only be regarded as an enemy of the Allies.—The Practical Engineer,

Ford Motor Agents.

Agents who are committed to stocks of Ford cars and the extensive trade in Ford car repair parts are complaining, but there is an easy, straight road out of their trouble. They have only to meet and repudiate Ford and stop giving further orders to him and ask the public to continue using stocks in hand. That is what the French motor car agents have done and what ours should do. If British agents prefer a less manly way they must take their chance with public opinion. No Briton with any self-respect would continue to deal with Ford. What do the staff of employees of the Ford Motor Co. at Manchester think of it?—The Practical Engineer.

Debts Due to Enemy Firms.

The Council of the Chamber desires to call attention once more to the provisions of this Act, which make it incumbent upon all persons in this country who are indebted to persons or corporations in Enemy Countries, to supply forthwith to the Public Trustee, 3 and 4, Clements Inn, Strand, London, W.C., particulars of such indebtedness. Notice was called to this shortly after the passing of the Act. Banks and Trading Corporations in this country are no doubt sufficiently informed as to their obligations, but judging from the small number of such debts so far communicated to the Public Trustees it would appear that the ordinary trader and importer from Germany, Austria, Turkey or Bulgaria, who owes a balance of account of £50 or upwards is unaware of the duty laid upon him. It cannot be too widely known that at present all traders who fail to conform to the above law are liable to a penalty of £100, with the risk of imprisonment for six months, or both, with accumulating fines of £50 per diem for each day of default. Responsible employees of such persons are also under the same obligation and subject to the same penalties.

Important Notice.

Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom,
Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.

17th December, 1915.

A Special Meeting of the Chambers will be held at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, London, S.W., on Tuesday, the 29th February, and following days, at 10 o'clock, to discuss the subject of Trade after the War. The Chambers will be invited to submit their suggestions as resolutions for discussion.

The Annual Meeting will be held and commence immediately on the conclusion of the Special Meeting. Full particulars of the arrangements will appear in the Monthly Proceedings for December, which will be issued on Monday.

The arrangement announced in the November Proceedings, that the Annual Meeting will be held on the 14th, 15th, and 16th March next, is cancelled.

Secretaries of Chambers are requested to kindly note this alteration, and the arrangement for the Programme of resolutions, which will appear in the December Proceedings.

R. B. Dunwoody. Secretary.

Occupations Reserved from Enlistment.

Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom,
Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.

17th December, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed to advise you that it would be well for employers of labour, whose men have enlisted, to ascertain individually from the Recruiting Officer that he has entered them correctly as being "reserved occupation." It is possible that in many cases indispensable men may not have known that their occupation was a reserved one, or that the Recruiting Officer may not have correctly entered it. It would be well therefore for each firm to ascertain that their indispensable men are correctly entered.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. Dunwoody.

Secretary.

From the Port and Transit Executive Committee.

68, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.

December 16th, 1915.

Sir,

Goods for export are frequently held up because the shipping notes sent to the Docks with the goods do not contain particulars required by the Customs regulations at present in force.

Arrangements have now been made with the Custom House under which goods for shipment by vessels not requiring pre-entry will be free to be put on board ship on arrival at the Docks, provided shipping notes duly filled up and signed by the shipper are sent down to the agent of the steamers at the dock to reach there as soon as the goods.

A form approved by the Custom House is enclosed herewith, and I am to suggest that for all goods sent for shipment a form giving the particulars required should be promptly sent to the steamers' agents at the docks. If this is done, delay in shipment will be avoided.

I am to request that you will kindly assist this Committee by making this arrangement as widely known as possible to shipowners and shippers.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. Dumayne, Secretary to the Committee.

Trading with the Enemy.

WARNING TO EXPORTERS.

The Board of Trade direct the particular attention of all manufacturers and traders concerned in the export trade to the need for scrupulous care in the transaction of their business abroad. The Government's reprisals

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

policy, formally announced by the Order-in-Council of 11th March, 1915, is directed to suppress all enemy trade, whether import or export. The main difficulty in making this policy thoroughly effective arises from the fact that some traders in some neutral countries are making themselves agents for the supply of goods to enemy countries. British firms engaged in foreign trade, therefore, must have regard to these circumstances and survey with great caution every opening for business which is offered them by neutral importers or exporters.

Especial care should be taken in opening new accounts in neutral countries, and in relation to any orders or enquiries of an abnormal character. In any case of doubt as to the bona-fides of particular consignees, business should be suspended pending reference to the Chairman, Trade Clearing House, Central Buildings, Westminster, London, S.W. It is inadvisable that any new accounts should be opened by any British trader in neutral countries, during the war, without the fullest enquiries as to the character of the business proposed to him.

The Board feel sure that they can rely upon the cordial co-operation of all firms engaged in foreign business to secure the successful working of the reprisals policy.

It must be added that the proclamations relating to trading with the enemy cover indirect trading with the enemy through neutral agents, and that carelessness in transacting; neutral business may involve traders in the severe penalties attaching to trading with the enemy.—The Board of Trade Journal.

A Wonderful Invention.

Mr. A. Roberts, a young Australian inventor, is reported to have invented an aerial wireless torpedo, which he proposes to offer to the Commonwealth Defence Department. He claims that his invention is now so perfect that he could, from a captive balloon within the lines of the Allies, direct a torpedo any distance within a view range, say, thirty to forty miles. The torpedo can be directed and exploded at any given point either by fuse or impact.

Parcel Post to Russia.

The service to Russia via Norway and Sweden has been suspended, while the new service via Norway and Archangel has also been stopped. Parcels are, however, now accepted for transmission to Russia by sea direct to Archangel. The rates of postage are as follows:—

. Russia-i	Russia-in-Europe	
	s. d.	s. d.
For a parcel weighing no nore than 3lb	19	2 9
For a parcel weighing more than 3lb. but not more		
than 7lb	2 1	3 1
For a parcel weighing more than 7 lb. but not more		
than 11 lb	2 5	3 5

The conditions of the service are the same as those for the existing routes shown in the Post Office Guide. Parcels for transmission via Archangel may be insured up to £400 in value.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Report on the Trade of Lisbon for 1914.

. MOTOR CARS.

ê	19	912	19)13
Complete Incomplete (wheels and motors)	Number.	£	Number.	£
	311	116,821	358	142,881
	77	20,268	92	29,650

It will be seen that the importation of cars continued to increase in 1913, though not at the same rate as in the previous year. At present this extension of the trade principally benefits French and Italian manufacturers, who enjoy reductions in the tariff, but it is to be hoped that, when the commercial treaty between the United Kingdom and Portugal, which gives most-favoured-nation treatment to British goods, is ratified, the United Kingdom will be in a position to participate.

Opening for Trade.—Motor Cars and Cycles.

The general opinion seems to be that the motor car and cycle trade of the Caucasus will be capable of much development as soon as normal conditions are restored to the country. It is, therefore, possible for British manufacturers according to a consular report from Batoum, to obtain a large proportion of the business which has hitherto been conducted by other countries. Even now it is possible the demand for cars would be considerable if only the question of easy and cheap transport could be solved, but the heavy expenses connected with the transit of cars by steamer and by rail from the United Kingdom to the Caucasus by the only roundabout routes now available prevent progress in the trade at this stage of events. Light cars with high clearances and commercial cars to use kerosene fuel would have considerable success in most parts of the Caucasus.

Customs Declarations relative to Parcels sent by Post to France.

The French Post Office states that the senders of parcels by post to France would avoid much delay to their parcels if they furnished on the Customs Declarations a full description of the goods, and particularly if the descriptions used were those of the French customs tariff. It is also required that, when the goods are not of British manufacture, the name of the country of origin should be given on the Customs Declaration; and it is recommended that any private marks of the sender which appear on the parcels themselves should be repeated on the Customs Declaration.

—The Board of Trade Journal.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MANUFACTURERS.

(The charge for insertion in this List is 5|- per annum for three lines, and is confined to Members of the Chamber only).

<u> </u>				
Trade.	Name and Address.	Teleg. Addı ess.	Tel. No.	
Motor and Cycle Chain Manufacturers, and Machine Driving Chains of all descriptions	THE COVENTRY CHAIN CO. LTD., Spon End, Coventry	Chains, Coventry	830	
Gear Cases, Saddles, Tool-bags, Mudguards, Mud-splashers	COVENTRY GEAR CASE Co., LTD., White Friars Street, Coventry	Proof, Coventry	785	
Gear Cases, Chain Covers, Exonite Handles, Inflators and Mudgnards, Steering Wheels	Dover, LTD , St. Nicholas Street, Coventry, and at Northampton, Birmingham and London	Patents, Northampton	309 Coventry 200 North- ampton	
Motor Manufacturers and Engineers	Maudslay Motor Co. Ltd., Parkside, Coventry	Mandstay, Coventry	1115 Coventry	
Lubricators, Brass Taps, Grease Cups, and Machinery and Motor Accessories	ROTHERHAM & Sons, Watch Manufacturers and Engineers, Coventry	Rother hams, Coventry	14	
Cycles, Motor Bicycles, and Patent Detachable Wire Wheels for Motors	Rudge-Whitworth, Limited Coventry and Birmingham	Rudge, Coventry	404 Coventry 773 Birming- ham	
Cycles and Motors	SWIFT CYCLE Co., LTD., Cheyles-more, Coventry	Swift, Coventry	113	
Cycle and Motor Cycle Manufacturers	TRIUMPH CYCLE Co., LTD. Coventry	Triumph, Coventry	542	
Insulated Wires and Cables	E. KALKER & Co., Coventry	Katker, Coventry	21 x	
TEXTILE.				
Elastic Web Manufacturers Trade Mark, "Spider Web"	T. B. BETHELL & Co., Station Mills, Foleshill, Coventry	Bethett, Great- heath, Coventry	256	
Silk Merchants	BILL, DRESSER & Co., Earl Street, Coventry	Bitt, Coventry	139	
Elastic Web and Boot Looping Manufacturers	BATES AND DALTON, South Street, Coventry	Bates Datton, Coventry	118	

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MANUFACTURERS—continued.

OLABBITIED	DIST OF MANOPACION	ENS—continued	•
Trade.	Name and Address.	Teleg. Address.	Tel. No.
TEXTILE—continued.			
Smallware and Elastic Web Manufacturers	Dubock, Jones & Co., Coventry	Dubock, Covenlry	307
Children's Millinery, Frocks, Pinafores, etc., also Ladies' Overalls	VICTOR DODD & COMPANY, Earl Street, Coventry	Dodd, Coventry	1012
Woven Hat and Cap Ribbons, with ships' names, flags, and devices. Badges and woven Garment Labels of every description. Dress Bands, Initials and Numerals for marking linen. Silk woven Pictures and Post Cards.	W. H. GRANT & Co., Foleshill, Coventry, and I, Gresham St., London, E. C.	Grants, Foleshill, Covenlry	3x Coventry
Fine Worsted Coatings, Plains, Trouserings, etc. Dress Goods: — "Admiralty" and other noted makes of all wool Serges, Mohairs, Alpacas, etc. Taffeta and other all wool Shirtings. "Orlwoola" and fancy blouse flannels.	Leigh Mills Co. Ltd, Coventry, and at Bradford and Stanningley, Leeds	Leemills, Coventry	7 and 725 Coventry 3067 and 3068 Bradford 70 Stanny.
Hosiery Manufacturers	Pool, Lorrimer & Tabberer, Lockhurst Lane, Coventry, and at Leicester	Woollens, Leicester	180 Coventry 4334, 4335, & 4336 Leicester
Ribbous, Neckties, Hatbands, Brace Webs, Regalia, and Medal Ribbous	HENRY SPENCER & Co., Coventry	Oriental, Coventry	157
Woven Named Ribbons of every description for hats and caps; Woven Lables for shirts, coats, and other gar- ments; and all kinds of Woven Figured Goods.	THOMAS STEVENS, LTD., Coventry, and 32, Newgate Street, London, E.C.	Graphic, Coventry	488
Purified Rags for polishing purposes with Certificate of Dr. Bostock Hill, County Analyst, as to their purification. Also all classes of Engine Cleaning Wastes in stock.	ARTHUR DAVIES & SONS, LTD., Palmer Lane, Coventry	Davies, Rag Merchants, Coventry.	98
IRON, STEEL, BRASS, etc.			
Iron, Gun Metal and Aluminium Founders and Merchants, and General Engineers	MATTERSON, HUXLEY & WATSON, LD., Lion Foundry, Coventry	Matterson, Coventry	408
File and Rasp Manufacturers	L. BROOKES & Co., South Street, Coventry (Principal, W. E. Dalton		-
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.		,	
Magneto Manufacturers	THE M-L MAGNETO SYNDICATE LTD. (Morris & Lister Ltd.) Carlton Works Coventry	Carllon, Coventry	1217 Coventry

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MANUFACTURERS—continued.

Trade.	Name and Address.	Teleg. Address.	Tel. No.
MISCELLANEOUS. Timber Merchants	W. L. CARTWRIGHT & Co., Canal Wharf, Coventry	Timber, Coventry	912
Complete Furnishers and Carpet Factors	JOHN ANSLOW, LTD., High St., Coventry		25
Manufacturers and Importers	Cooke's Tobacco, Cigar and Cigarette Co., Coventry	Tobacco	704
Picture Frame Manufacturer, Hardware & Glass Merchant	T. E. FRISWELL, 64, Ragian St., Coventry		791
Wine and Spirit Merchants	JOHNSON & MASON, Hertford Buildings, Coventry		29
Anctioneers, Valuers, Estate and Insurance Agents, Stock and Share Brokers	GEO. LOVEITT & Sons, Hertford Street, Coventry	Presto, Coventry	130
General, Furnishing and Agricultural Ironmongers, Silversmiths, etc.	MATTERSON; HUXLEY & WATSON, LTD., Coventry	Matterson, Coventry	403
Printers, Stationers and Advertising Contractors	MILLS & Co., 34, Earl Street, Coventry	Mills, Covenly	86
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